

# HURRICANE WATCH

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Courtesy image

Perhaps even more dangerous than the high winds of a hurricane is the storm surge, a dome of ocean water that can be 20 feet high at its peak and 50 to 100 miles wide. The surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore. In recent years, the fatalities associated with storm surge have been greatly reduced as a result of better warning and preparedness.

Hurricane Categories - Disaster Potential Scale				
		Wind Speed		
Storm Category	Damage Potential	Knots	MPH	Storm Surge (Feet)
I	Weak	64-82	74-95	4-5
II	Moderate	83-95	96-110	6-8
III	Strong	96-113	111-130	9-12
IV	Very Strong	114-134	131-155	13-18
V	Devastating	Above 134	Above 155	Above 18

Government

[www.eglin.af.mil/weather/](http://www.eglin.af.mil/weather/)

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

Weather Web sites

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

[www.met.tamu.edu/weather.shtml](http://www.met.tamu.edu/weather.shtml)

Other

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

[www.met.tamu.edu/weather.shtml](http://www.met.tamu.edu/weather.shtml)

## Center commander determines release

by Lois Walsh  
AAC Public Affairs

One of the first questions when a hurricane heads towards the Gulf Coast is “when can I leave work?” The answer, for military and civilians stationed on Eglin and Duke Field is very clear cut.

At Hurricane Condition 2, the Air Armament Center commander makes the determination as to whether or not to approve the group dismissal and administrative leave of non mission critical (essential) personnel. However, it is at the discretion of the unit commander to dismiss their personnel after the initial determination has been made.

It is important for all personnel to keep their unit commanders informed of their location. All military members are required to identify to their units which base or location that they will evacuate to before an actual evacuation takes place.

The process is the same for civilians. “The AAC commander determines the release and/or recall of all civilian employees,” said Dolly Holbrook, Labor Relations Officer for the base.

Once the release of personnel is authorized, the directive is disseminated to commanders and supervisors who can then discharge personnel.

The announcement is posted as a Battlestaff Directive on Eglin’s Emergency Network, and unit control centers are notified that a new BSD is posted, minimizing notification delays.

The EENET is available through the Executive Management Information System, or EMIS, on workstation computers.

Recall and the decision to return to work is also established by the center commander.

“Employees should listen to the local radio stations for updates and report times,” Holbrook stressed.

Questions concerning official closure can be directed to the Workforce Effectiveness Branch, 882-4298.

## HURCON conditions and tips

**HURCON 4: Alert**  
\*72 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater  
\*Stock up on emergency supplies such as nonperishable foods, bottled water, special medications and batteries  
\* Copy important papers and phone numbers; store in storm-proof place  
\*If you know you will evacuate, decide now where to go

**HURCON 3: Preparation**  
\*48 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater  
\*Monitor storm reports on local radio and television stations  
\*Bring in lawn furniture, trash cans, potted plants and other loose objects  
\*If you plan to evacuate, know the route you will take and consider leaving before an evacuation order is issued

**HURCON 2: Final Preparation**  
\*24 hours prior to the forecast arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater  
\*Listen constantly to strom reports  
\*Board windows and glass doors  
\*Turn refrigerators and freezer to their highest setting, freeze water in jugs  
\*Fill sinks and tubs with water for bathing and sanitary purposes  
\*Residents on high ground away from the beaches, should consider riding out the storm

**HURCON 1: Secure**  
\*12 hours prior to the forecsat arrival of 50-knot sustained winds or greater  
\*Remain indoors  
**After the Storm**  
\*Don't return home until evacuation areas are clear  
\*Think safety! Watch for downed power lines, broken glass, weak-ened structures and snakes  
\*Don't eat or drink water unless you're absolutely sure it's safe  
\*Monitor media for updates

County Hurricane Shelters	
Okaloosa County Public Shelters	
Longwood Elementary School	Choctawhatchee High School
Max Bruner Middle School	Addie R. Lewis Middle School
Niceville High School	Baker High School
Laurel Hill High School	Shalimar Elementary School
First Baptist Church, Valparaiso	Crestview High School
NOTE: When Okaloosa County is threatened by a category III or greater hurricane, local emergency manage-ment officials will order complete evacuation of the southern part of the county, and no public shelters will be opened south of Interstate 10. The following Okaloosa County hurricane shelters are located north of Interstate 10: Crestview High School (Medical Shelter), Laurel Hill High School and Baker High School.	
Santa Rosa County Public Shelters	
Bagdad Elementary School	T. R. Jackson Elementary School
King Middle School	Hobbs Middle School
Pea Ridge Elementary School	Pace High School
Jay High School	Gulf Breeze Middle School
Gulf Breeze High School	S. S. Dickinson Elementary School
Locklin Technological Center	New Berryhill Elementary School
Chumuckla School	
Walton County Public Shelters	
Walton County Senior High School	Maude Saunders Elementary School
Walton Middle School	Paxton School
Freeport High School	West DeFuniak Springs Elementary School
NOTE: Personnel residing in Santa Rosa and Walton Counties need to contact their local emergency management officials to determine locations of shelters within their respective counties to include their availability during a category III or greater storm. Residents must check with local officials to determine which shelters have been opened.	

On Base Shelter Reception Centers			
Bldg	Location	Bldg	Location
2582	Youth Center	810	Fitness Center
NOTE: These centers complete the shelter registration and assignment process for those personnel seeking shelter in the general base populace shelters. Military personnel, dependents and Department of Defense civilian refugees, who decide to seek shelter at Eglin will be directed to report to the Shelter Reception Centers for shelter assignment. Shelter Reception Centers normally are activated at HURCON 3. Only those personnel electing to take shelter on Eglin are authorized to shelter their pets on base. Personnel with pets who decide to take shelter here will be directed to report to the fitness center. Pet owners will be required to register at the fitness center. The fitness center will begin accepting the registration of pets at HURCON 2. Shelter Reception Team members will be available to register the animal(s) at the same time the owner registers for shelter assignment. Exotic animals (i.e., reptiles) will not be allowed in the animal shelter (dogs and cats only). Building 2825 (Eglin Hospital) will be used as a shelter by medical personnel, their dependents, patients or seriously ill personnel only. Females in their eighth month of pregnancy or later should report to the hospital, unless otherwise instructed by a doctor.			

Hurricane survival checklist	
■ Canned and non-perishable foods	■ Pet supplies and food
■ Baby food, formula and diapers	■ Cleaning supplies
■ Eating utensils	■ Bedding, blankets and sleeping bag
■ Manual can opener	■ Clothing
■ Portable cooler and ice	■ Cash
■ Bottled drinking water	■ Emergency phone numbers
■ Portable radio/flashlight and batteries	■ Valuables and important papers
■ Prescriptions and medications	■ Releasable plastic bags to waterproof valuables
■ Toiletries	■ First aid kit
■ Insect repellent	■ Plywood pre-measured and cut to fit windows
■ Full tank of gas	■ Tarps (heavy duty plastic and canvas)

# Emergency Numbers and Information Sources

<b><u>Eglin Information</u></b> Evacuation Hotline - 1-800-435-9941 Eglin Law Center - 882-4611 Air Force Aid Society - 882-4489 Family Support Center - 882-9060 Eglin Red Cross - 882-5848 AAC Public Affairs - 882-3931 Rumor Control Line - 882-4891 Eglin Emergency Room - 883-8227 Eglin Taped Weather Recording - 882-5453 Eglin Disaster Preparedness Office - 882-3173 Commanders Access Channel - 882-9394 Pet Welfare Center - 678-5066 East/West Gate Reader Boards AM 530 (Base Radio Station)	<b><u>Hospitals</u></b> FWB Medical Center - 862-1111 Santa Rosa Medical Center - 626-7762 Twin Cities Hospital - 678-4131 North Okaloosa Medical Center - 689-8100 Gulf Breeze Hospital - 934-2000 Hurlburt Emergency Room - 881-5173  <b><u>Utilities</u></b> Gulf Power - 1-800-225-5797 CHELCO - 1-800-342-0990 Okaloosa Gas - 1-800-239-3878 Centel Telephone Co. - 1-800-326-2497 Southern Bell - 611 Emerald Coast Cable - 862-4142 or 862-0175 Southern Bell - Navarre - 780-2355	<b><u>Other Helpful Numbers</u></b> Hurlburt Weather Recording - 884-7682  <b><u>Local Television Stations</u></b> WEAR TV-3 (ABC) WKRG TV-5 (CBS) WJHG TV-7 (NBC) WPMI TV-15 (NBC-15)  <b><u>National Television</u></b> Weather Channel  <b><u>Local Print Media</u></b> FWB - Northwest Florida Daily News Niceville - The Bay Beacon Pensacola - Pensacola News Journal	<b><u>Radio Stations</u></b> FWB - 99 Rock (FM) FWB - Talk Radio 1260 (AM) FWB - LUV 100 (FM) FWB - Z 96 (FM) FWB - Country 105.5 (FM) FWB - WKSM 99.5 (FM) Pensacola - WUWF 88.1 (FM) Pensacola - WYCL 101.5 (FM) Destin - WWAV 102.1 (FM) Destin - WMXZ 103.1 (FM) Milton, Fla. - WEBY 1330 (AM) Milton, Fla. - WECM 1490 (AM) Pace, Fla. - WXBM 102.7 (FM) Montgomery, Ala. - WLWI 92.3 (FM)
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Personal Shelter Requirements
* Sufficient money
* Infant supplies/bedding
*Comfortable clothing
* Toiletries and/or personal articles
* Nonperishable foods
*Required medicines
* Inflatable mattresses, bedding
* Books and games

## Preparing for the worst

Hurricanes can be dangerous killers. learning the hurricane warn-ing messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage.  
Plan an evacuation route.  
Contact the local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter, and ask for the community hurricane prepared-ness plan.  
Plans are also available through the family support center. This plan should include information on the safest evacuation routes and nearby shelters.  
Be ready to drive 20 to 50 miles inland to locate a safe place.  
Have disaster supplies on hand:  
\* Flashlight and extra batteries  
\* Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries  
\* First aid kit and manual  
\* Emergency food and water  
\* Nonelectric can opener  
\* Essential medicines  
\* Cash and credit cards  
\* Sturdy shoes  
Make arrangements for pets. They may not be allowed into emer-gency shelters off base for health and space reasons. Contact the local humane society for information on local animal shelters.  
Make sure all family members know how to respond after a hurricane.  
Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water.  
Teach children how and when to call 911, police or fire department and which radio station to tune in to for emergency information.  
Protect windows. Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2 inch ply-wood - marine plywood is best - cut to fit each window. Mark which board fits each window. Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.  
Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.  
Check into flood insurance. You can find out about the National Flood Insurance Program through your local insurance agent or emergency management office. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before a new policy becomes effective. Homeowner's po-lices don't cover damage from the flooding that accompanies a hurricane.  
Develop an emergency communication plan. In case family members are separated from one antoher during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.  
Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family con-tact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person.



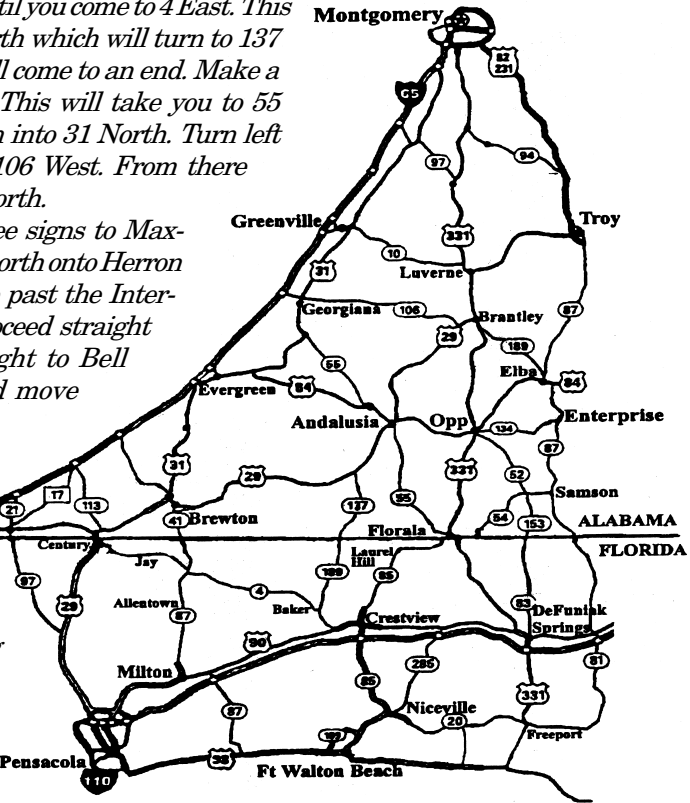
# Hurricane Evacuation Bases

## DIRECTIONS TO MAXWELL AFB, ALA.

From the base, go to Crestview taking 85 North. At that point, you will get on 90 West and stay on it until you come to 4 East. This will turn into 189 North which will turn to 137 North. I-37 North will come to an end. Make a right onto 29 North. This will take you to 55 North which will turn into 31 North. Turn left from 31 North onto 106 West. From there you will get on I-65 North.

You will begin to see signs to Maxwell AFB. Then turn north onto Herron Street. Exit one mile past the Interstate 85 junction. Proceed straight at the first signal light to Bell Street. Turn left and move into the right lane. This will lead directly to the base.

Upon arrival at the main gate, the security forces will direct you to the evacuation processing line. Ensure all family members have their identification cards.



## DIRECTIONS TO FORT BENNING, GA.

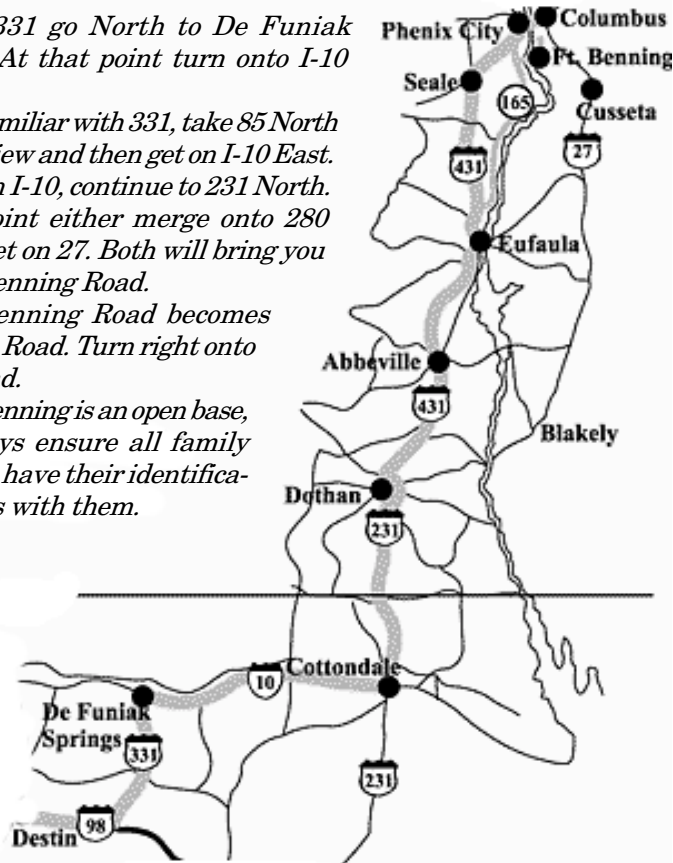
From 331 go North to De Funiak Springs. At that point turn onto I-10 East.

If not familiar with 331, take 85 North to Crestview and then get on I-10 East.

Once on I-10, continue to 231 North. At his point either merge onto 280 East or get on 27. Both will bring you to Fort Benning Road.

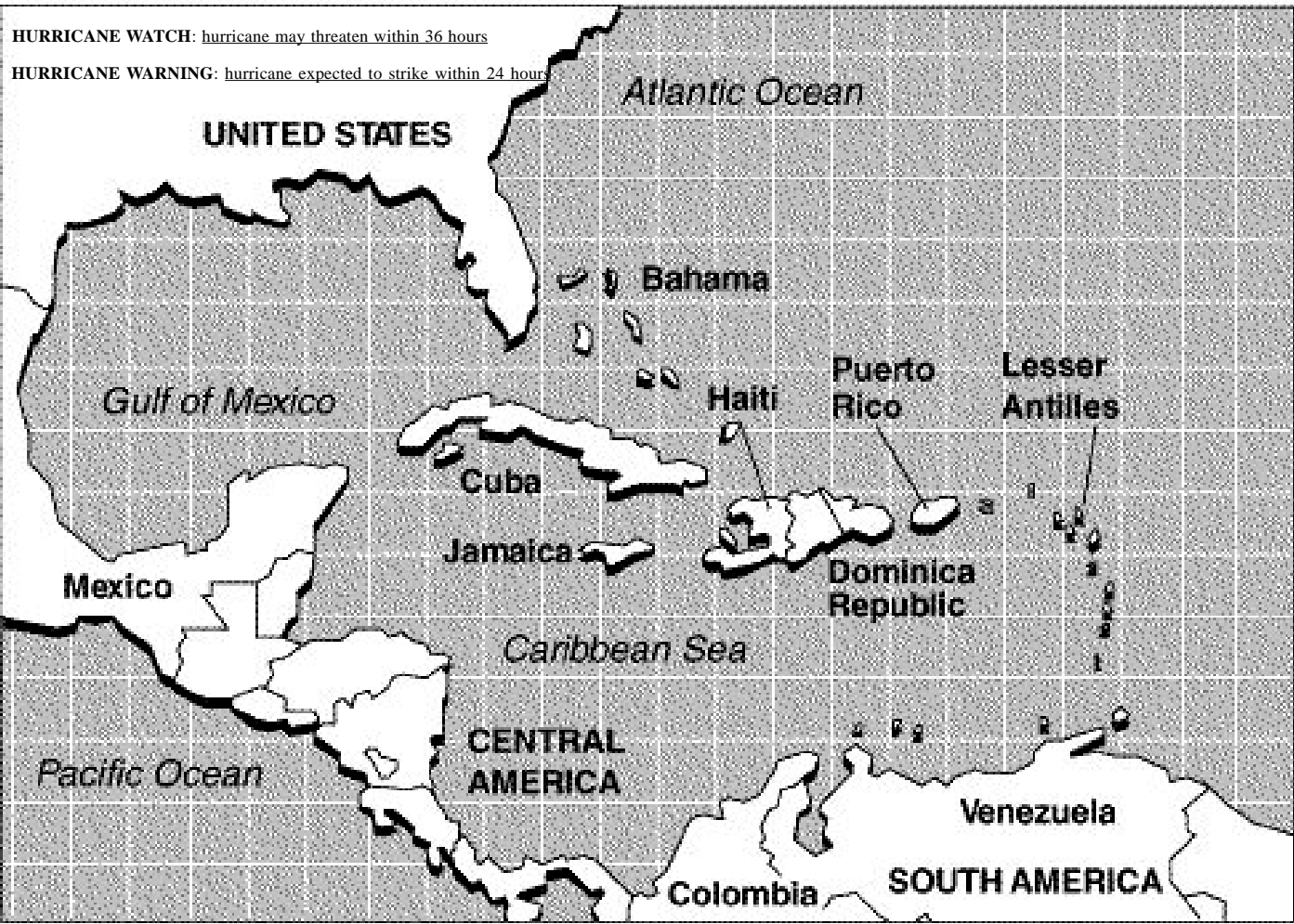
Fort Benning Road becomes Lumpkin Road. Turn right onto Dixie Road.

Fort Benning is an open base, but always ensure all family members have their identification cards with them.



## Hurricane tracking map

A hurricane tracking map is an essential tool in determining where a hurricane is headed. When a storm is announced, plot the storm's position with a marker on the map provided. When a hurricane threatens, newspapers and radio and television stations will give its latest position in latitude and longitude coordinates. Latitude corresponds to the vertical numbers at the right, and longitude is represented by the numbers across the bottom. Plotting the storm's position as a series of points lets you follow its track. Check frequently on the storm's progress until all Watches and Warnings for your area from the National Weather Service are canceled.



98 96 94 92 90 88 86 84 82 80 78 76 74 72 70 68 66 64 62 60 58 56 54